

IN THE CLAIMS

1 - 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (currently amended): A transmitter for transmitting a data signal comprising
including a plurality of data items, comprising:

a processor for arranging the data signal to include:

a field indicating the number of data items, each data item including an identifier;

~~the plurality of data items, each item including an identifier;~~

~~characterized in that wherein~~ the plurality of identifiers form an ordered sequence,
and in that the field indicating the number of data items comprises a first and a second
subfield, said subfields representing the a range of said sequence of identifiers.

Claims 14-16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (currently amended): The ~~signal~~ transmitter of claim ~~46~~13, wherein the first
subfield represents a beginning of the range and the second subfield represents an end of
the range.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The ~~signal~~ transmitter of claim 17, wherein the first and
second subfields enable ~~[[the]]~~ a receiving device to perform the following operations:

determining whether a stored set of data items is current and/or complete by
comparing the first and second subfields with the identifiers; and

updating the stored set of data items, with reference to the first and second

subfields, in response to determining that the stored set of data items is not current and/or complete, whereby wherein

such updating is not conducted unnecessarily when the stored set of data items is still current and/or complete;

other operations can be performed in lieu of such unnecessary updating; and

the identifiers need not be changed as the range of data items currently transmitted changes.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The ~~signal~~ transmitter of claim 4613, wherein the data items are for use in a television.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The ~~signal~~ transmitter of claim 19, wherein the data items are for use in an electronic program guide for a television.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The ~~signal~~ transmitter of claim 4613, wherein the subfields are modulo-N numbers, where N is the maximum number of data items to be kept track of at a given time.

Claims 22-23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (new): A method for generating a data signal comprising:

generating a plurality of data items;

adding an identifier to each data item, the plurality of identifiers forming an ordered sequence; and

generating a field indicating the number of data items and comprising a first and second subfield, the subfields representing the range of said sequence of identifiers.

Claim 25 (new): The method of claim 24, wherein the first subfield represents a beginning of the range and the second subfield represents an end of the range.

Claim 26 (new): The method of claim 24, wherein the first and second subfields enable a receiving device to perform the following operations:

- determining whether a stored set of data items is current and/or complete by comparing the first and second subfields with the identifiers; and

- updating the stored set of data items, with reference to the first and second subfields, in response to determining that the stored set of data items is not current and/or complete, wherein

 - such updating is not conducted unnecessarily when the stored set of data items is still current and/or complete;

 - other operations can be performed in lieu of such unnecessary updating; and
 - the identifiers need not be changed as the range of data items currently transmitted changes.

Claim 27 (new): The method of claim 24, wherein the data items are for use in a television.

Claim 28 (new): The method of claim 27, wherein the data items are for use in an electronic program guide for a television.

Claim 29 (new): The method of claim 24, wherein the subfields are modulo-N numbers, where N is the maximum number of data items to be kept track of at a given time.

Claim 30 (new): A method for use by a receiving device which receives a signal embodying a plurality of data items, the data items comprising a field indicating the number of data items, each item including an identifier, the plurality of identifiers forming an ordered sequence, the field indicating the number of data items comprising a first and a second subfield, said subfields representing the range of said sequence of identifiers, and the first subfield representing a beginning of the range and the second subfield representing an end of the range, the method comprising:

determining whether a stored set of data items is current and/or complete by comparing the first and second subfields with the identifiers; and

updating the stored set of data items, with reference to the first and second subfields, in response to determining that the stored set of data items is not current and/or complete, wherein

such updating is not conducted unnecessarily when the stored set of data items is still current and/or complete;

other operations can be performed in lieu of such unnecessary updating; and

the identifiers need not be changed as the range of data items currently transmitted changes.

Claim 31 (new): A transmitter comprising:

a processor for generating a field that includes a first and second subfield, wherein

each of the data items includes an identifier and a plurality of identifiers are arranged to correspond to the plurality of data items in an ordered sequence, wherein said subfields represent a range of said sequence of identifiers.

Claim 32 (new): The transmitter of claim 31, wherein the first subfield represents a beginning of the range and the second subfield represents an end of the range.

Claim 33 (new): The transmitter of claim 31, wherein the first and second subfields enable a receiving device to perform the following operations:

- determining whether a stored set of data items is current and/or complete by comparing the first and second subfields with the identifiers; and

- updating the stored set of data items, with reference to the first and second subfields, in response to determining that the stored set of data items is not current and/or complete, wherein

 - such updating is not conducted unnecessarily when the stored set of data items is still current and/or complete;

 - other operations can be performed in lieu of such unnecessary updating; and

 - the identifiers need not be changed as the range of data items currently transmitted changes.

Claim 34 (new): The transmitter of claim 31, wherein the data items are for use in a television.

Claim 35 (new): The transmitter of claim 34, wherein the data items are for use in an

electronic program guide for a television.

Claim 36 (new): The transmitter of claim 31, wherein the subfields are modulo-N numbers, where N is the maximum number of data items to be kept track of at a given time.